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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/507,088

08/23/2005

Hans-Joachim Weinand

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EXAMINER

LAMB, BRENDA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1792

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/23/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/507,088	Applicant(s) WEINAND, HANS-JOACHIM	
	Examiner Brenda A. Lamb	Art Unit 1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/2/2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

Note the last office action had typographical error in that the rejection over WO-02-053482 and Sugane et al 2001/0019004 should have included claim 2 since the examiner addressed in the recited rejection the obviousness of tilting the holding device in the dipping zone which is set forth in only in claim 2.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO-02-053482 in view of Sugane et al 2001/0019004.

WO '482 teaches a system for treating articles, comprising: a plurality of treatment containers, in which the articles may be acted upon in each case by a treatment liquid; a feed device, by means of which the articles are conveyed through the system and in the process are dipped successively into the treatment containers, the feed device comprising at least one feed carriage which in turn comprises: running gear movable along the path of motion of the articles; at least one swivel arm 41a, 43b hingedly coupled to the running gear; a holding or supporting device 6 hingedly coupled to the swivel arm for at least one article and, mutually independently actuatable drives for translational movement, the swivelling of the at least one swivel arm and of the holding

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device. WO '482 teaches tilting the article at an angular position with the scope of the claim. WO'482 fails to teach that the system includes at a dripping zone, a space/area in which draining or dripping may occur, downstream of the bath downstream of the bath and a drier is disposed downstream of the dripping zone. However, it would have been obvious to modify WO '482 apparatus by extending the conveyor system to provide conveyance to a dripping zone such that the article is tilted in the manner set forth in the claim in the dipping zone and a drier is disposed downstream of the dripping zone since Sugane et al shows arranging a dripping zone or open space downstream of the bath wherein the articles can be tilted to drip the coating therefrom and a drier is disposed downstream of the dripping zone for the obvious reason to enable one to coat the article with different coating materials without cross-contamination of the coating material between the coating stations which apply different coating materials.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's argument that Sugane et al fails to disclose a dripping zone which is downstream of the bath is found to be non-persuasive. Sugane et al feed carriage rotates into and out of the position or stage 7 of the pretreatment process which is a floor conveyor position in which Sugane et al teaches in paragraph 0079 and 0096 that the articles drain or drip excess fluid thereon. Sugane et al teaches in paragraph 0099 that the workpiece is removed from the bath 20 and is rotated into and out of a floor conveyor position, spaced downstream of the bath, which obviously facilitating draining/dripping excess fluid thereby reading on a dripping zone since Sugane et al

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teaches the floor conveyor position is one in which the article drains/drips of any fluid thereon occurs and obviously the dripping zone includes an area wherein the article is rotated into and out of the floor conveyor position.

All arguments set forth in the instant after-final amendment are well taken, however, rejections of the claims under the prior art is sustained for the reasons set forth in the above cited rejection

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brenda A. Lamb whose telephone number is (571) 272-1231. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday and Thursday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton, can be reached on (571) 272-1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brenda A Lamb
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1792

/Brenda A Lamb/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792